

## NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: February 12, 2021

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: <a href="https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio">https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio</a>
February 16, 1 pm	<a href="#">House Education K-12</a>	<a href="#">643 LOB, audio and livestream available</a>

### NC DHHS Gives First Glimpse of Foster Care Specialty Plan:

NC DHHS presented [an overview](#) of the proposed Foster Care (FC) Specialty Plan.

- The FC Specialty Plan will cover approximately 31,000 children and youth, including 7,000 who are eligible for the BH/IDD Tailored Plan.
- NC DHHS is hoping to go-live with this Plan on July 1, 2022—the same go-live date as the BH/IDD Tailored Plan.
- Only a PHP serving Standard Plan members or a BH/IDD Tailored Plan (LME/MCO) can vie for the FC Specialty Plan contract.
- Care management is a key feature of the FC Specialty Plan and plans are expected to connect the child or youth with the care manager within 24 hours of becoming eligible for the plan.
- The FC Specialty Plan is expected to work closely with the local Department of Social Services.

The populations that will be included in the FC Specialty Plan include:

- Children and youth in foster care
- Former foster youth who aged out of care up to age 26
- Children receiving Title IV-E adoption assistance
- Children of individuals eligible for FC Plan enrollment

NC DHHS plans to publish the Request for Application this Spring and award the contract by Fall of 2021. To read the full concept paper, [follow this link](#). **A survey has been developed to gather feedback.** Note: It includes very specific questions related to the concept paper.

### COVID-19 Relief Funding Signed into Law:

[Senate Bill 36](#), SL 2021- was passed by both Houses of the General Assembly early in this Long Session was signed into law. The bill extends deadlines for use of COVID-19 funds and allocates additional federal funds. Funding included:

- \$1.6B of federal funds released to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II that will be distributed in grants to public school units
- \$75M to DPI for emergency school nutrition services
- \$27M to DPI for personal protective equipment and COVID-19 testing equipment
- \$10M to DPI for contract physical and mental health services due to the pandemic
- \$5M to DPI for competitive grants to support at-risk students whose learning may have been negatively impacted by the pandemic
- \$70M to DPI for a summer learning program
- \$19.85M to YMCAs to provide remote learning opportunities during the pandemic
- \$22M to DPI to be distributed to low-wealth counties to address COVID-19
- \$237.5M for continuity of State operations during the pandemic

#### **Resources:**

- A [Teen Town Hall](#) is being offered to youth 13-19 on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. NC DHHS Deputy Secretary Kody Kinsley will lead the discussion.
- [Executive Order 193](#) was signed by Governor Cooper to extend health care waivers—particularly related to credentials of individuals administering COVID-19 vaccines—until May 10, 2021.
- Essential school and child care workers will be eligible for vaccinations beginning on February 24<sup>th</sup> and that frontline worker eligibility will be expanded even more on March 10<sup>th</sup>. NC DHHS announced that they will be moving to Group 3 that includes these essential workers. They have FAQ sheets in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

#### **Bills on the Move:**

[S. 36](#), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications, extends dates for funding to be used and other needed modifications, signed into law, SL 2021-1

[S. 37](#), In-Person Learning Choice for Families, passed the Senate and House, conference committee appointed

#### **Bills Introduced:**

[H. 29](#), Verification of Immigration Status: SAVE

[H. 32](#), Equity Opportunity Act

[H. 42](#) ([S. 36](#)), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications

[S. 61](#), Dental Services/Medicaid Transformation

[S. 78](#), A Safe Return for In-Person Learning

[S. 86](#), Medicaid Recs/School-Based Health and InCK evaluation/ Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec

[S. 88](#), NC FAST Child Welfare Case Mgmt./PED Study

[S. 89](#), Regional Supervision/Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec  
[S. 90](#), Social Services Reform/Inter-County Collaboration/Child Well-Being  
Transformation Council Rec